

REMARKS

Applicant is in receipt of the Office Action mailed November 29, 2004.

Claims 1-17 are canceled.

New claims 18-40 are added.

§ 103 Rejections

Claims 1-17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lentz (USPN 5,515,494) and further in view of Dulak et al. (USPN 6,552,723) hereinafter referred to as Dulak.

Claim 18 recites:

A method for comparing a pixel location against a plurality of windows, the method comprising:

passing the pixel location through a plurality of clip circuits, wherein the clip circuits are connected in a series to form a pipeline, and wherein each clip circuit is a segment of the pipeline;

computing a window result in each clip circuit for the pixel location, wherein each clip circuit is provided data defining a different one of the plurality of windows, wherein the window result comprises an indication of inclusion of the pixel location within the corresponding one of the plurality of windows;

outputting the pixel location and a window word from each clip circuit, wherein said outputting comprises, passing the pixel location and the window word directly to a next clip circuit in the series of clip circuits except for the last clip circuit in the series, and wherein the window word also comprises any previous window results; and

examining the window word output by the last clip circuit in the series of clip circuits to determine if the pixel is included in at least one of the windows.

Neither Lentz nor Duluk, either singly or in combination, teaches or implies the following set of limitations from claim 1: “passing the pixel location through a plurality of clip circuits, wherein **the clip circuits are connected in a series to form a pipeline**, ... computing a window result in each clip circuit for the pixel location ... outputting the pixel location and a window word from each clip circuit ... **directly** to a next clip circuit in the series of clip circuits ... examining the window word output by the last clip circuit in the series of clip circuits to determine if the pixel is included in at least one of the windows”.

Therefore, Applicant submits that new claim 18 and its dependent claims are non-obvious and patentably distinguished over Lentz and Duluk for at least the reasons given above. Applicant also submits that the new independent claims 26 and 34 contain limitations similar to claim 18, and therefore, claims 26 and 34 and their dependent claims are also non-obvious and patentably distinguished over Lentz and Duluk.

CONCLUSION

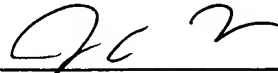
In light of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant submits the application is now in condition for allowance, and an early notice to that effect is requested.

If any extensions of time (under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136) are necessary to prevent the above referenced application(s) from becoming abandoned, Applicant(s) hereby petition for such extensions. If any fees are due, the Commissioner is authorized to charge said fees to Meyertons, Hood, Kivlin, Kowert & Goetzel PC Deposit Account No. 50-1505/5181-84600/JCH.

Also enclosed herewith are the following items:

- ☒ Return Receipt Postcard
- ☒ Notice of Change of Address

Respectfully submitted,



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Date: 2/23/2005 JCH/JWC